

Volunteers are stupid! They do not have the knowledge and skills to do the work properly. Let it be done by professionals.

Why?

(Try to find out what feelings and needs are alive in the other person: empathic resonance)

Are you feeling helpless/insecure/ troubled?

Do you need support/help? Is competence important for you?

What I'm hearing is that you are insecure. You need help/support and you are not sure to get it by volunteers who you think are not skilled enough. Is that what you are saying?

What if?

(‘Mirror questions’: how would it be if you were standing in the shoes of that person)

Do you have friends, colleagues or acquaintances who are volunteers? What do you know about their activities and their skills? How do you think it will be for them to be called stupid?

What exactly do you expect from volunteers? What type of knowledge and what type of skills do you have in mind?

Self-reflection

(Questions you can ask yourself in silence to support yourself in understanding the other person)

How important is support/help for me?

When do I have the need for it?

How do I feel when this need is not fulfilled?

Empowerment

(More information on the issue and tips how to explore the problem and continue the discussion)

In our central European area, volunteering has a long tradition. There are around 92 to 94 million adults involved in volunteering in the EU. This in turn, implies that around 22% to 23% of Europeans aged over 15 years are engaged in voluntary work. On this scale, how can one assume that all these people are stupid? Whilst certain EU Member States have longstanding traditions in volunteering and well-developed voluntary sectors, in others the voluntary sector is still emerging. Being a volunteer means dedicating time, efforts and resources to people and tasks in need of support. The importance of volunteering has long been acknowledged by the European Union. More about volunteering on the European level:

https://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/doc1018_en.pdf

Category: Voluntary helpers

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Project Number: 2018-1-DE02-KA204-005060